

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her time during the telephone interview of November 24, 2004, respecting the above-referenced application.

In the Final Office Action, all independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the basis that the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of record.

Applicants have amended without prejudice claims 1, 3, 5, 10 and 13 to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification, e.g., at ¶¶ [0049], [0050], and [0056]. The claim amendments were discussed with the Examiner during the telephone interview, and the Examiner indicated that these claim amendments would place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-14 are respectfully solicited. In the event that the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Scheinfeld  
PTO Reg. No. 31,300  
(212) 408-2513

Robert L. Maier  
PTO Reg. No. 54,291  
(212) 408-2538

Attorneys for Applicants

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112